



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

September 15, 2007

Hello Friends,

The 2007 Legislative Session has come to a close. I was truly impressed with the bi-partisan collaboration on a number of key policy issues from prison reform to flood control. It was a year of impassioned, but respectable debate, on policies that will affect millions of Californians.

I was also pleased with the success of a number of personal bills that passed. I worked with my colleagues to pass bills important to my constituents, including an important public safety measure targeting drunk drivers.

As Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee, I carried a number of bills that were supported by the farming community and helps our rich agricultural industry continue providing quality products, and important jobs, in the Central Valley.

I want to thank my constituents who have been the real leaders this session. Countless individuals, organizations, and government agencies have inspired me and my colleagues, provided expert testimony, and devoted their personal and professional time and effort to make this a successful year for the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Thank you!

---

### **Parra Bills**

**AB 808.** Under existing law it is difficult to charge drunk drivers whose irresponsible actions kill an innocent person with murder. I introduced AB 808 to make it easier for prosecutors to charge DUI offenders with second-degree murder. This new law will work by adding a new requirement at the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain or renew a driver's license. Each motorist would be required to consent to a statement acknowledging the dangers of drinking and driving. This common sense bill will make our roads safer and provide a tool for law enforcement to crack down on drunk driving. I anticipate holding a signing ceremony in the weeks ahead in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

**AB 1255.** Recently, the Governor signed my bill AB 1255, which will help Fresno County control retirement costs for the County and its employees. The measure was an agreement between Fresno County and the Services Employees International Union and demonstrates that when we work together, solutions that benefit both sides can be achieved. I am proud to have worked with all interested parties in ensuring Fresno County is able to control fiscal costs without harming employees. This bill demonstrates that when we all work together in good faith, positive outcomes occur.

**AB 1359.** I introduced AB 1359, a bill supported by the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), a coalition of California business, labor and public leaders seeking a sound economy and healthy environment. The bill moved through the State Legislature with bipartisan support. AB 1359 allows highly-refined dielectric mineral oil to be recycled, instead of disposed in a hazardous waste dump. This is an effort to reduce the amount of material being placed in hazardous waste disposal facilities and reduce operating costs for a number of utilities around the State. I am proud to say that AB 1359 is both good for our economy and good for environment.

---

### **Agriculture Committee Bills**

**AB 1713** (Agriculture) expands funding for County Agricultural Commissioners. The major provisions of this bill provide for reallocation of state and county agricultural support funding without imposing any new costs.

**AB 1717** (Agriculture) makes changes to the Food and Agricultural Code relative to the regulation of pesticides and the prosecution of pesticide violations. It increases, from two to four years the statute of limitations for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to prosecute and collect civil penalties for violations of misbranded or adulterated pesticides. It requires termite pest control operators to register annually with the County Agricultural Commissioner.

This is a big step toward having Structural Pest Control activities conform to the stringent requirements that agricultural users must comply with, and to protect residents from fumigant drift.

#### **AB 472** (Agriculture)

Increases the various fee ceiling levels within the Bureau of Livestock Identification Branch (BLID) – and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) – for cattle brands and inspections. The BLID inspects nearly 3.5 million cattle annually and maintains more the 23,000 registered brands.

BLID has been in a fiscal shortfall that they and the board have been working to address over the last two years. The industry established a task force to address fiscal and other issues facing BLID. AB 472 addresses several of the board's recommendations from last year as well, updating other fees to current assessment levels. These changes have been approved by the industry that pays them and by CDFA.

**AB 1718 (Agriculture)**

Makes various technical and conforming changes to the Food and Agricultural Code. Specifically, this bill:

- Clarifies that the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), may revoke, or refuse to issue, a dairy exemption number for culled cattle to any person who violates livestock handling provisions within the FAC.
- Authorizes the California Kiwifruit Commission to collect and disseminate marketing information in order to prevent unfair trade practices, and to recommend kiwifruit quality standards to the Secretary for adoption.
- Clarifies that all walnut handlers may vote in a referendum conducted by the Secretary, on behalf of the California Walnut Commission.
- Provides that the California Cut Flower Commission may work in cooperation with other floral industry organizations to develop and provide for better access to markets.
- Exempts growers of three acres or less from an assessment collected by the Mendocino County Winegrape and Wine Commission.

**AB 1735 (Agriculture)**

This bill brings dairy farms into compliance with federal inspection guidelines for fluid milk.

California is a member of the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments. As a member, the state is charged with ensuring compliance with federal guidelines. Each of the provisions in this bill is necessary for the state's milk safety and inspection laws to be consistent with federal interstate milk shipment guidelines.

---

**Other Key Bills****Economic Development**

**AB 89** (Garcia) will require the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency to prepare a study by January 1, 2010, regarding infrastructure development along the California/Mexico border, to ensure the this important region is able to meet the economic development challenges brought along by globalization and the twenty-first century.

**AB 1606** (Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy) is an important piece of legislation that will require the secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to develop a state private investment strategy and update the official California economic development framework to both streamline economic development programs in the state and to help grow the overall California economy.

**Military/Veterans**

**AB 187** (Nakanishi) increases the amount paid by the county towards the burial of an indigent veteran to \$350. This important legislation helps ensure the brave men and women who fight for

our country are not interred in cemeteries that are in deplorable and disgraceful condition.

**AB 1712** (Committee on Veterans Affairs) requires the Military Department to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of all California Armories. This measure helps California make certain our armories do not fall into disrepair and will help improve retention and readiness issues amongst our soldiers and airmen in the California National Guard.

### **Healthcare**

**AB 8** (Núñez). I am pleased to announce the Legislature passed AB 8 this week. This landmark legislation will provide health care coverage for the citizens of California. Speaker Núñez and Senate President pro Tem Perata have moved this bill to the Governor's desk, where it is pending his signature. Affordable and accessible coverage for all Californians is highly important to me, and given the large number of uninsured individuals in the Valley, especially children, I am strongly supportive of this effort. I promise to continue working toward providing all citizens of California, and specifically those in the Central Valley, with the health coverage and resources they need to live well, raise healthy families, and provide for future generations.

**AB 1142** (Salas). I supported throughout the process, will require Department of Public Health (DPH) to identify effective hospice care models and provide the model care examples to all freestanding nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, home health agencies and hospices in the State. This is a major victory for senior citizens across the Central Valley and the State, and will result in higher quality care for individuals within these types of facilities.

**AB 1429** (Evans). With the prevalence of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) throughout the State, and the risks associated with this disease relative to cervical cancer in women, I am proud to say that I supported AB 1429, which will require health plan providers throughout the State to cover the vaccination for this disease. It is important that women are aware of this ailment, and take every action necessary to prevent its proliferation. By requiring health insurance companies to provide this service to their clients, we are one step closer to protecting women, young and old, throughout our State.

### **Public Safety**

**AB 900** (Solorio) creates "The Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007," which authorizes \$7.4 billion in lease-revenue bond financing for construction for 40,000 new state prison beds and 13,00 new county jail beds to ensure offenders serve their sentences and are not released early back into our communities. The legislation also requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to implement and significantly enhance anti-recidivism programming, including substance abuse treatment, mental healthcare and academic and vocational education programs to ensure inmates have the opportunity to turn their lives around prior to release. I supported legislation that will fundamentally reform California's system of incarcerating and rehabilitating prisoners.

**AB 104** (Solorio) is a bill I supported to give city attorneys the tools they need to pursue gang

injunctions in order to protect their communities. I voted for this bill because it is a practical method local law enforcement officials can use to reduce gang violence. The bill passed with overwhelming support in both houses.

### **Water/Agriculture**

**AB 783** (Arambula) directs the Department of Public Health to prioritize funding of water projects in disadvantaged communities. This legislation is very important to the areas that I represent in the Central Valley because a majority of the disadvantaged communities affected are throughout California's heartland. Clean and accessible water is critical to the growth of our farmland and communities. This bill will help make the distribution of water projects equitable to all communities.

**SB 5** (Machado) requires the Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to prepare and adopt a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by 2012, and establishes flood protection requirements consistent with the plan. California's plan for controlling the flood waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries dates back almost 100 years – to a 1911 report and modifications made in 1925. As the United States and the rest of the world saw with the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, flood control is an issue of utmost importance. This legislation guarantees California has an up-to-date plan for flood control.

---

### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

---

### **Internships**

Big thanks to our Sacramento interns this summer. **Will Lyon** is a sophomore at UC San Diego majoring in History. **Maria Castellanos** obtained her degree her degree from California State University, Sacramento in Family & Consumer Sciences.

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at:  
[Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at:  
[Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov)

**Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

**Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)  
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)